



Contact: Mark E. Jacobsen
BLM Public Affairs
Phone: (406) 233-2831
Date: April 2, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RAC NOMINATION DEADLINE NEARS

MILES CITY -- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Miles City Field Office is seeking nominations for positions on its Resource Advisory Council (RAC) for eastern Montana. Nominations must be submitted by April 19.

Interested individuals are encouraged to contact the Field Office for an application packet. A completed background information form (including specification of nomination category) and letter of reference from represented interests or organizations must be included for each nominee. The applicable forms are available by mail or email from the Miles City Field Office.

The terms of five members from Eastern Montana RAC will expire in September 2004. Newly appointed RAC members will serve three-year terms beginning September 21, 2004.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act directs the Secretary of the Interior to involve the public in the planning and management of the public lands administered by the BLM. The Department of the Interior established the RACs in 1995.

"The RACs have been very effective partners in helping resolve public lands issues that affect Montana's quality of life," said BLM State Director Marty Ott.

--more--

The council has 15 members who serve staggered terms. Council membership must reflect a balanced representation of the various interests and users of the public lands. These include persons who represent the following categories:

- **Category 1** - Holders of federal grazing permits; energy and mineral development; timber industry; transportation or rights-of-way; off-highway vehicle use; or commercial recreation;
- **Category 2** – Nationally or regionally recognized environmental organizations; dispersed recreation; archeological and historic interests; or wild horse and burro groups; and
- **Category 3** - Elected state, county or local government; employees of state agencies responsible for management of natural resources; Native American tribes; academicians involved in natural sciences; and the public-at-large.

The Eastern Montana RAC has one opening in Category 1, two openings in Category 2 and two openings in Category 3. Nominees will be evaluated based on their education, training, experience and knowledge of the issues and the geographical area of the council. Nominees must demonstrate a commitment to collaborative resource decision making.

Nomination packets may be mailed to: Dave McIlroy, BLM Miles City Field Manager, 111 Garryowen Road, Miles City, MT, 59301.

Questions may be referred to Eastern Montana RAC Coordinator Mark E. Jacobsen, at (406)233-2831.